

Message Text

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54

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 H-03 PRS-01 DODE-00 PA-04

DRC-01 RSC-01 /043 W
----- 019990

R 190603Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6286
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
CDR JCRC NKP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: VISIT TO VIENTIANE OF LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

REF: VIENTIANE 7024

1. THIRTY-SIX LEAGUE MEMBERS DEPARTED VIENTIANE FOR BANGKOK 1555 HOURS OCTOBER 17, AND ELEVEN DEPARTED 1430 HOURS OCTOBER 18. THE REMAINING SIX ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ON OCTOBER 19.

2. DELEGATION FOLLOWED ITINERARY OUTLINED REFTEL. AT LAST MINUTE, EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY ONE HOUR BEFORE REMAINING SIX MEMBERS SCHEDULED TO DEPART. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON MEETING.

3. DELEGATION LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE WERE HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY EFFORT ON THEIR BEHALF. GROUP WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH CANDOR OF GENERAL SOUCHAY, COMMANDING GENERAL MILITARY REGION IV, AND GENERAL VANG PAO, COMMANDING GENERAL MILITARY REGION II, IN DISCUSSING THE PW/MIA SITUATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

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GROUP ALSO EXPRESSED MORE REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF MIA

PROBLEM AFTER VIEWING THE DIFFICULT TERRAIN IN AREAS EAST
OF PAKSE AND SAVANNAKHET.

4. COMMENT: CONDUCT OF GROUP AS A WHOLE WAS EXEMPLARY.
THEY APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VIEW
OF CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION BUT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT
THAT COALITION GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN FORMED ON OCTOBER
14 AND PROTOCOL PROVISION ON EXCHANGE OF POW/DIC INFORMA-
TION HAD NOT OCCURRED. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY FELT THAT TIMING
OF TRIP WAS UNFORTUNATE AND INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF A
RETURN VISIT AFTER THE COALITION GOVERNMENT BECAME A
REALITY AND MIA/POW ISSUE CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH BOTH RLG
AND LPF MEMBERS OF NEW PGNU.

5. WE HAVE SENT A NEW REQUEST TO SOTH PHETRASY, REQUESTING
AN APPOINTMENT FOR AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO PROTEST FORMALLY
THE LPF'S FAILURE TO MEET THE OCTOBER 14 DEADLINE FOR
EXCHANGE OF POW/DIC INFORMATION.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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